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the REA Lineman

Rural Electrification Administration

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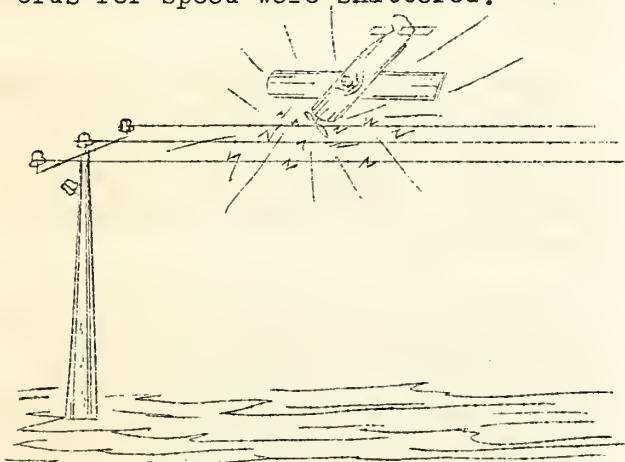
AUGUST 1941

Washington, D. C.

REA SYSTEM MAKES REPAIRS IN RECORD TIME AS PLANE HITS HIGH LINE, KILLING 2

A major outage on Wisconsin 38 Rock was caused recently when an airplane plunged into high-tension wires, killing two persons.

"The crash happened at 4:20 a.m.," says C. H. Foster, manager of the REA system in reporting the incident. "A 950-foot four-wire span was torn down and broken in several places from the impact of the plane. Service was completely restored at 8:20 p.m. Considering the work involved in replacing this crossing, I believe that all records for speed were shattered.



"The wives of the members of the staff kept the members informed of the progress of the repairs. Mrs. Jean Davis, our secretary, deserves a special vote of thanks for her thoughtfulness in driving 26 miles to her home and return after working hours to refresh us with some homemade sandwiches and coffee."

SANTEE-COOPER PROJECT PUTS PREMIUM ON SAFETY; CALLS IT "PILLAR OF DEFENSE"

The Santee-Cooper development in South Carolina has been declared a defense project. Sponsored by the South Carolina Public Service Authority, the project has put a premium on safety. The Santee-Cooper Safety News states:

"The responsibility for the safety of vast numbers of new employes (and of old employes working longer hours) has given all of us something to think about. But thoughts are useless unless translated into action.

"The increasing pressure on the construction has brought superintendents and foremen alike face to face with the need for ACTION. This need is being met, in increasing volume, every day. The 'helping hand' and the 'eagle eye' foremen CAN, HAVE and WILL do much to keep accidents to a minimum.

"This is not the job of one man alone, nor of any small group of men. Everyone must put his shoulder to the wheel. Safety is indeed one of the pillars of defense."

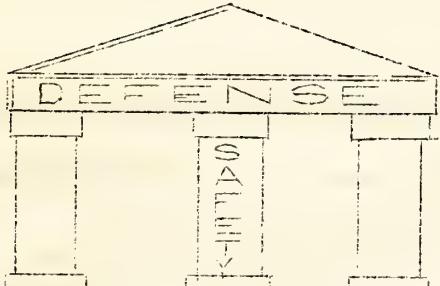
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE ARE URGED IN NEW FILM

REA has arranged for the showing of the new film "Worst Farm Disasters" to representatives of insurance associations.

The film which urges safety methods to prevent farm fires, has been sent to the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies and to the National Fire Protection Association for their review. These organizations will assist REA in the distribution of the film.

THE REA LINEMAN

David A. Fleming, Editor



SAFETY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

In this and other issues of the REA LINEMAN, it has been stressed that safety in all lines of work is a factor in national defense.

Linemen, therefore, who practice safety methods and who urge others to do so are making an important contribution in the present emergency.

Linemen can further help by buying defense bonds.

FIVE DEATHS TOO MANY

Five deaths are reported in this issue. That is five deaths too many.

LINEMEN AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Many and favorable have been the comments on the story in the last issue of the REA LINEMAN, describing how linemen are more than their name implies. The consensus of these comments shows that linemen probably solicit and get more new members to existing co-ops than any other group--even superintendents.

Fortunate indeed is the superintendent--and there are many of them--whose maintenance men are also salesmen.

WISCONSIN 38 ROCK TAKES A BOW

The staff of this co-op, as described on Page 1, did an outstanding job in restoring service after an unfortunate airplane accident. Congratulations!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Our entire organization will benefit from the REA Lineman," writes T. J. Robertson, manager of Ark. 9 Craighead. Incidentally, each member of our maintenance and construction department has just received a certificate from the American National Red Cross which indicates that these employes have completed the standard first aid training course."

Tom Moran, superintendent of the Tipton, Oklahoma, co-op, writes that "Tom Comer, of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company was on our project recently and was very complimentary of our organization and asked for a number of pictures that we had made in our safety demonstrations. All of our employes have had the first course in first aid training, the boys (linemen) have had the second course and Homer Shotts, our head lineman has taken the course in teaching. Our employes meet twice a month and we devote much time to safety talks."

William Jackman, manager of New Jersey 4 Monmouth, has forest fires to add to his other troubles. "So far we have had no damage," Jackman writes, "but we have been put to considerable expense fighting the fires."

In the last issue of the REA Lineman, we warned against poison ivy. We regret to report that there have been several serious poison ivy cases reported recently. Two cases were so severe that the workers had to quit work for several days.

Two unusual accidents are reported by Quisle & Andrews, Ft. Worth contractors. In one, a heavy truck crossed a private bridge, breaking it. In the other, an earth-boring machine struck a pipe, tearing up the water main.

Many letters received recently show that accidents caused by axes are probably the most frequent on REA systems. An ax is no tool for an amateur.

MAN-POWER LOSS
These Accidents Were Reported To
REA During June

DEAD

J. S. Stringfellow
Employed by Miss. 45 Clarke-Lauderdale
Walter Tressel
Independent Tree Trimmer, killed on
lines of Ohio 31 Holmes
Two Laborers
Contractor employees on Minn. 1 Kanabec
Roy Lemley
Employee of Construction Company on
Virginia 34 Lee

DISABLED REA SYSTEM EMPLOYES

Mo. 38 Reynolds--L. Bollinger, hand cut;
E. Bollinger, leg cut by ax; E. Hahs,
hurt by ax.
Kan. 7 Jewell--H. Gronevaller, cut by ax.
S. D. 12 Minnehaha--R. Westover, shock.
Fla. 14 Clay--P. Tyson, injured back in
fall.
Fla. 17 Jackson--A. Simpson, spine
bruised.
Ohio 74 Butler--J. Beltz, iliac strain.
Ill. 30 Adams--F. Smith, foot hurt by ax.
S. C. 21 Lancaster--G. Smith, shock.
Ky. 51 Hardin--C. Tharp, finger ampu-
tated.

DISABLED CONTRACTORS' EMPLOYES

Walco Eng. Co.-Okla.-E. Spring, sprained
ankle.
J. H. Smith Co.-S.C.-J. Barris, knee
hurt in fall on leg.
Quiale & Andrews-Texas-C. Brown, knee
sprained; E. Franklin, eye injured;
J. McDonough, arm hurt in fall; J.
Weeks, strained hip; W. Burks, ankle
hurt; F. Jones, mouth hurt when hit
by spike; O. Sims, stomach hurt when
hit by pole.
Little Electric Co.-S.C.-J. Brown and
L. Davis, leg injuries from ax.
Killoren Electric Co.-Wisc.-H. Smith,
foot pierced by climbers.
W. H. Horne Co.-S.C.-A. McCoy, swollen
finger, cause undetermined.
Elkhorn Const. Co.-A. Raymond, hands in-
fected from Creosote.

5 DEATHS REPORTED IN MONTH;
2 EMPLOYES OF ROAD CONTRACTOR
ARE KILLED IN SAME ACCIDENT

Five deaths are reported in this issue.
Roy Lemley, lineman for the Codell Con-
struction Company, Jonesville, Virginia,
was climbing a pole to correct an error
in a service connection to the transfor-
mer. He came in contact with current
and fell into his safety belt, his head
dangling downward. The contractor in
this instance violated Safety Bulletin
#9 which prohibits contractor employees
from working on energized lines.

Walter Tressel was trimming trees on
a farm on Ohio 33 Holmes. The trimmer
came in contact with the high line. He
fell and suffered a broken neck.

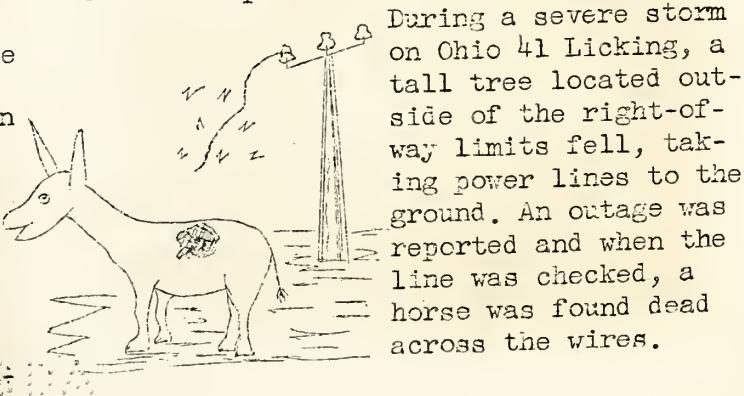
J. S. Stringfellow, lineman for Miss.
45 Clarke-Lauderdale, was climbing a pole
to repair a tap. Murray Regan, engineer
for the co-op who witnessed the fatality
says:

"I heard an arc and I knew something
was wrong. I picked up a hot stick and
was going to try to knock Stringfellow
from the pole, but he slipped down in his
safety belt. He never regained con-
sciousness."

On Minn. 1 Kanabec, two men were work-
ing for a road contractor doing bridge
work. They were electrocuted when a boom
and cable came in contact with the hot
wire.

MULE AND HORSE ELECTROCUTED

A mule and a horse are included in the
month's fatalities. In the case of the
former, a transmission line, in the vi-
cinity of Miss. 21 Coahoma became detach-
ed from a pole and fell on the animal.



During a severe storm
on Ohio 41 Licking, a
tall tree located out-
side of the right-of-
way limits fell, tak-
ing power lines to the
ground. An outage was
reported and when the
line was checked, a
horse was found dead
across the wires.

WAR DEPARTMENT ACTIVE
IN TRAINING OF NEW MEN
IN METHODS OF SAFETY

The War Department is definitely safety-minded. It considers safety essential to the national defense.

Lt. Col. Elliott Vandeventer of the Engineering Corps makes that plain in an article in the National Safety News in which he details the efforts made to protect workers from injury. Speaking specifically of the Upper Mississippi Valley Division, Lt. Col. Vandeventer says: "We have required that every lost-time injury be investigated by one of the higher officials of the district who has no direct connection with the work on which the accident occurred. His reports go directly to the district engineer, together with recommendations as to how a similar injury may be prevented. Responsibility is fixed and disciplinary action taken when so indicated."

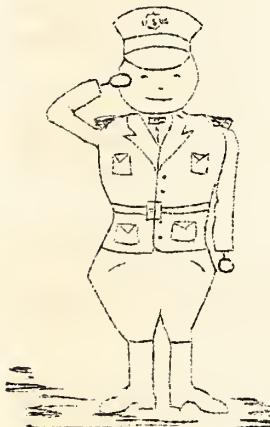
The army officer states that disciplinary action has been used infrequently, explaining:

"Disciplinary measures should be used with great care, however, in order that justice may be done to all concerned. One unfair decision may do much harm and considerably undermine the good work which has been done."

Of selectees, the author states:

"All new recruits should be carefully instructed in their new duties by a thoroughly trained employe. I know of no better plan or one which will pay higher dividends than the proper instruction of employes. They should be advised to wear safety shoes so as to protect their toes. They should be cautioned about wearing rubber heels, as a small spot of water or oil on the floor may result in a bad fall."

There's plenty of food for thought for REA systems in these views.



GROUNDMAN CATCHES LINEMAN
AS HE PLUNGES FROM POLE
IN TEXAS SYSTEM ACCIDENT

How a groundman probably saved the life of a lineman is told in a story of what might have been a fatal accident on Texas 53D McLennan.

E. M. Murphy, maintenance man for that REA system, said to his helper as he ascended a pole:

"We have a hot jumper here, one we did not know existed."

Murphy had his safety belt underneath the neutral wire as he tried to place a hot clamp and jumper back on the wire. He tried to take his position on the pole by catching hold of the neutral wire with his hand to slide his belt around the pole. He loosened his grip on the hot stick, apparently, which slid down his hand and made contact with the hot wire. The groundman, Raymond Collins, now goes on with the story:

"There was a flash and Murphy plunged toward the ground. As he was falling, I realized Murphy would fall on his head so I rushed under the pole and caught him.

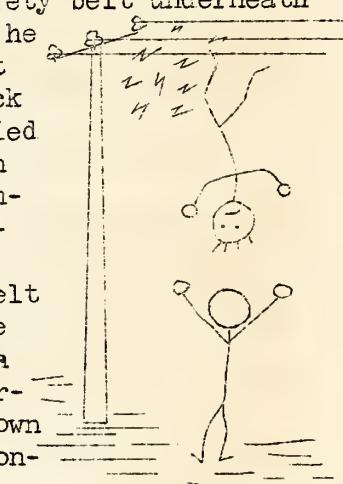
"As I loosed Murphy's belt, he came to and asked, 'Where am I?' But he soon realized what had happened. I immediately rushed him to a hospital where he was given aid."

Murphy suffered severe burns, but was uninjured otherwise.

WATCH THOSE GROUNDS!

Grounding of wiring systems, meters and other equipment should be made with utmost care. Good grounds mean good safety precautions.

THE REA LINEMAN would like to hear from co-op linemen who have had interesting experiences with grounds, under varying soil conditions.



IT'S CHEAPER TO BUY 5¢ FUSE
THAN PAY \$85 FOR A NEW COW
FARMER FINDS OUT TO HIS SORROW

Five cents for a new fuse or \$85 for a new cow? That's a question posed by the Nobles co-op of Minnesota in its monthly news Bulletin. It states:

"One of our members disregarded all rules and regulations of good electric wiring and proved to himself that inadequate wiring does not pay.

"Jake Kernisse added a motor on his pump and in the installation did not

2 MEMBERS OF OHIO CO-OPS
DICE WITH DEATH AND BOTH
LIVE TO TELL HOW IT HAPPENED

The Cooperative News, organ of the REA co-op at Mt. Gilead, Ohio, reports how two farmers diced with death--and lived to tell the tale.

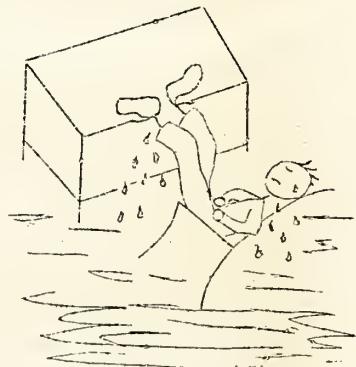
One farmer wanted to cut down a tree, which was near the REA line. When cut, the tree fell into the hot wire carrying 6900 volts. The three-shot section-along fuses were blown out. Luckily, the farmer who cut the tree was not hurt, but 200 members of the co-op were without electricity for several hours until the service men could re-fuse the line.

In another case, a member noticed, after a storm, that the door in the fused cutout on his transformer had opened. A charge of lightning had blown the fuse. Believing he could restore service by closing the door, the farmer took a long wooden pole and tried it. He stuck the end of the pole into 6900 volts of current. The pole was damp and the farmer says, "I was shocked until my teeth rattled."

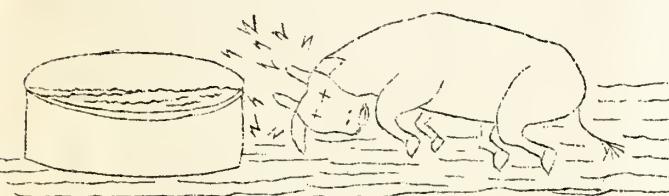
KANSAS LINEMAN SAVES
CO-OP RECORDS IN FLOOD

Yale Davis, lineman for the Jewell-Mitchell co-op in Kansas was the hero of a recent flood. The project Bulletin of the REA system describes the incident as follows:

"The co-op office had a foot of water in it but little damage was done to the records and papers, thanks to our lineman Yale Davis. He left his own house and came down to the office to put file drawers and other valuables out of the water's reach.



"When he got through, the water in the streets was too deep for him to go home, and he spent the night in the office in his wet clothes."



include a ground on the wiring. He removed the motor for repairs and when replacing it did not tape the connections. These bare wires eventually grounded on the frame and blew a fuse. Jake did not look for the source of the trouble but slugged the fuse so it would not blow. This worked, of course, but one of his best milk cows came in contact with the charged steel tank and it killed her."

SAFETY IS PART OF DAILY WORK
OF MONTANA 12 MISSOULA EMPLOYEES

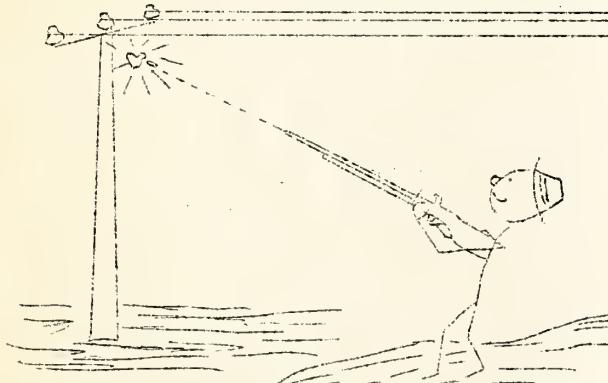
Safety-minded Palmer Hamilton, assistant to Regional Operations Engineer E. C. Wells dropped in on Montana 12 Missoula, and he writes to the REA LINEMAN as follows:

"Both Superintendent Thompson and Mr. Scott are safety-minded. I saw them in action and could see that safety was part of their daily work. An inspection of the truck and tools showed that things were kept in shape. I had suggested that they discard the pike poles that they are using now. These are nothing more than long boom pikes and should not be used in piking poles in place, as they are no longer than an ordinary digging-shovel handle. Superintendent Thompson will request two new ones at the next Board meeting."

SAVE THE INSULATORS!
HERE IS IMPORTANT PROBLEM
CO-OP MEMBERS CAN SOLVE

Co-ops in all sections are reporting increased trouble with kids and hunters shooting insulators. This is a dangerous practice for all concerned. Therefore, some co-op publications may want to reprint the following story:

Of the 7,600,000 licensed hunters in



the United States there are comparatively few who are so irresponsible as to start banging away at insulators and other inanimate objects when they get bored with the monotony of hunting and not finding. Nevertheless, there are some who have never grown up, who are rather like the boy who recorded the following in his diary:

"February 26: Got rifle for birthday. Snowing. Couldn't go hunting.

"February 27: Still snowing. Couldn't go hunting.

"February 28: Polished rifle. Still snowing. Couldn't go hunting.

"March 1: Still snowing. Shot Grandma."

There are real sportsmen--hunters who won't shoot anything that is sitting still or wearing a red coat.

And then there are hunters who are just grown-up boys. They need to be taught respect for the rights of others.

On REA power systems, insulator damage by rifle bullets and shotgun pellets is a very frequent cause of outages.

Insulators damaged by gunshot sometimes stay in service until the next storm; then, in the worst possible weather -- perhaps at night -- the whole line goes dead.

HE DIDN'T GET THE JOB
THO HE WAS A LINESMAN
BUT NOT FOR REA SYSTEM

The following advertisement appeared in a North Carolina paper recently:

"Wanted--experienced lineman for Wilmington, North Carolina, project."

The architect building this big national defense plant, received the following reply:

"I seed in the paper whar you wanted some experienced linesmen. So I write you fer the job. I am experienced linesman. I have drove a team for my pappy for nigh on to tin years and have handled the lines on double horse teams, too. Folks here say I am a good linesman and if you pay good wages I could go to North Carolina. But I ain't hankering to go unless you pay good like I heer the bog jobs does. You ain't sed in your paper what kind of teams, but after I get a holt the lines, I ain't skeert none of them."

P. S. He didn't get the job.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!

B etter safe than sorry,
E veryone will quite approve
T hat this fine and true old saying
T hen AND NOW is "in the groove."
E 'er we slip up and forget.
R emember safety--don't regret.

S afety is the watchword,
A ll down the workmen's line,
F or those who really watch their step,
E nd up just feeling fine.

T ake no chances in your work,
I eed all rules of the game,
A sk your Foreman when in doubt,
N ever have yourself to blame.

S o heed this little story
O n the job the whole year through,
R ather safe than sorry,
R eaps reward for
Y ou and YOU.

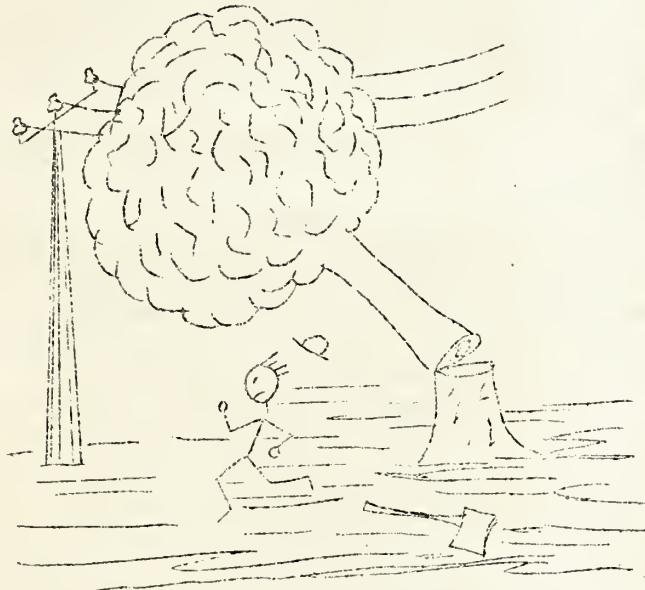
SAFETY HELD BETTER THAN COMPENSATION

Safety is better than compensation, the Safety Division of the Ohio Industrial Commission states in its recently issued report of February accidents.

ILLINOIS SAFETY COMMITTEE
HONORS CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES
FOR PASSING FIRST-AID COURSE

Nineteen employes of the White City Electric Company were given first-aid certificates at Petersburg recently for having completed the standard Red Cross Course.

The presentation was made by P. F. Snively, REA safety instructor for Illinois who presided at an informal dinner. Snively introduced A. W. Beckley, of the White City Electric Company as a man who "has done much in stressing the importance of safety."



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

The White City company is now constructing 215 miles of line for the Menard Electric Cooperative, an REA system. Harvey T. Nack, president of the construction company became interested in the safety program sponsored by Snively and the REA co-op and arranged for a first-aid training course for his employes.

The group met regularly for ten weeks to receive this course, many of the men driving 25 miles or more to be present.

With the award of these certificates, this group becomes the first employed by contractors doing REA construction work to receive these honors.

CHICKEN HAWKS WOO
CURRENT, CAUSE FIRE;
FARMER SUES, COLLECTS

Most linemen are familiar with birds who like to flirt with pole-tap equipment. Often they are killed in the process, the while causing interruptions of electric service.

In this connection, a strange tale, reported by the REA LAW JOURNAL, comes from Idaho where a company maintained transmission lines parallel to a wire fence.

Attached to the top of one of its poles was an uninsulated guy wire which was anchored about 15 feet from the base of the pole. For some time the fence had leaned out so far that it touched and rubbed against the guy wire.

One day a sudden flash of electricity was observed near the top of the pole and shortly thereafter numerous fires were seen to start in the dry grass along the fence. Before these fires could be extinguished, plaintiff's barn and certain personality were completely destroyed.

Found at the foot of the pole within an hour or so of the original flash were the bodies of two dead chicken hawks, their talons interlocked, their feathers badly singed. The theory most readily accepted by all concerned was that the two birds had fallen or flown so that one of them touched the high-tension wire at the same instant the other touched the guy wire, their bodies thus forming the connecting link through which the electricity passed ultimately to reach the wire fence and to ignite the fires which caused the damage.

Admitting that the fires were caused by electricity escaping from the lines, the power company disclaimed liability on the ground that the event which caused the electricity to pass from the transmission line to the guy wire was so unusual and so unforeseeable that it was not responsible therefor, and hence its negligence in allowing the fence to contact the guy wire was not the proximate cause of the fires.

However, the plaintiff won the case.

BOOKLET 'UNTIL THE DOCTOR COMES'
IS AVAILABLE TO REA SYSTEMS
AS AID TO SAFETY PROGRAMS

By D. A. FLEMING
Editor, REA LINEMAN

"Until the Doctor Comes" is a new booklet just published by the United States Public Health Service. As its name implies, the book describes in detail what should be done pending the arrival of a physician. It covers many types of accidents which occur frequently on REA lines and will prove helpful not only to all employees of REA systems, but also to contractors and their employees. The REA LINEMAN recommends "Until the Doctor Comes" as MUST reading for all employees of REA systems. In the near future REA hopes to issue a safety booklet which will deal specifically with problems in the newly electrified farm and along the lines themselves. Meanwhile, this booklet, written by James A. Dolce, M.D., will be distributed to REA systems. Concerning electrical accidents, "Until the Doctor Comes" states:

"Each year an increasing number of household electrical appliances and gadgets appear on the market. The increase in rural electrification during the last few years has brought more electrical appliances to the farm. Since many homes are not adequately equipped with electric outlets, many men are tempted to become amateur electricians and attempt make-shift wiring jobs. Long extension cords are used, placed under rugs where they are stepped on and receive frequent abuse because of their location on the floor. In time, the insulation or protective covering is worn off the wires and serious accidents result.

"If you have any amateur wiring jobs in your home, have them checked as soon as possible by a competent electrician. You can never tell when wires are liable to go wrong and cause serious damage by fire. It is important to repair or replace cords when they become worn."

HOW TO GET YOUR COPIES

The booklet, "Until the Doctor Comes" is available to all employees of REA systems who have completed their first-aid training course.

Requests for copies should be sent to Editor, REA LINEMAN, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C.

OUTCOME OF ELECTRICAL ACCIDENTS

"The outcome of electrical accidents may vary from simple burns to sudden death.

"Shock may be present more frequently with electrical burns than with those caused by other agents. If breathing has stopped, proceed immediately with the Schaffer method of artificial respiration.

HOW TO DEAL WITH SUCH ACCIDENTS

"If the patient is still in contact with the current, throw off the switch immediately. When this is not possible, do not touch the patient unless you are properly prepared. Rubber does not permit electricity to pass through it. Therefore, with your hands covered with rubber gloves, rubber coat or rubber apron, free the patient from the contact. Wearing rubber boots or overshoes will likewise protect the rescuer from shock.

"A dry stick or a folded newspaper may be used to remove the live wire from contact with the patient. By standing on a dry board, it may be possible to pull the patient away by his clothing, if dry."

PREVENTION

"Keep all electrical equipment in good order at all times.

"Do not tamper with electrical appliances.

"Avoid handling electrical cords and devices with wet hands.

"Never use electrical appliances in the bath tub or around water. When the hands are wet the contact is much better than when they are dry because water is a good conductor of electricity."

"Until the Doctor Comes" is attractively illustrated.